

Current Developments



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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*From the Office of the
Tennessee
State Conservationist*



July 2001

A Message from the State Conservationist:

We are in the final quarter of another successful year of providing services to the landowners and producers of Tennessee. The conservation partnership is working well, and the discussions of the new farm policy legislation are sounding favorable. The State Office reorganization is in place, and we are experiencing benefits and results that are very favorable.

We have received notification that our nominee for "RC&D Partner of the Year," the Tennessee Valley Authority, has been selected as the national winner. This is the fourth straight year that we have had a national winner in the RC&D program. I want to congratulate the RC&D Councils, and the District Conservationists who participate and support this important program.

As we approach the new fiscal year, I hope each of us will focus on ways to increase efficiency and quality in the services we provide. NRCS has always been known as an agency that has technology and quality as our primary objectives. We want to make every effort to assure that we uphold and forward this important reputation. In times of environmental awareness, we have even higher expectations from our customers and we have the capability to meet these expectations with quality services. We should be proud of the new certification process for Nutrient Management and Conservation Planning. You are professionals and this new certification will assure our customers that your expertise merits their confidence. We have been active in providing technical input to groups working on farm policy legislation, aging watersheds, and grazing lands conservation issues. The participation and interaction in all have been positive. Our next challenge is to coordinate the utilization of our technical expertise with the expansion of our computer capabilities. A successful combination of these two areas of technology will assure our continued quality of service to the landowners and producers in Tennessee.

Thank each of you for your continued efforts and your positive attitude. Keep up the good work and take every opportunity to demonstrate your value to your customers by being the most valuable consultant in your jurisdiction.

JAMES W. FORD
State Conservationist

"We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

--Aldo Leopold (1887-1948),
American Conservationist

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Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival A Big Success!



Shown in the photo above (L-R) are Troy Taylor, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Memphis FO; Andy Neal, NRCS District Conservationist, Memphis; and Shelby/Tipton Counties farmer, Barry Sneed, receiving information at the NRCS/SCD booth at this year's Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival.

This marks the 7th year that the Tennessee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Shelby County Soil Conservation District (SCD) have participated in the Ducks Unlimited (DU) Great Outdoors Festival. Attendance was well over 100,000 this year for the three-day event.

The Shelby County SCD and NRCS partnered on a booth in the Conservation Village. A new "Conservation Buffer" display was utilized at which publications and information were distributed on wetlands, conservation buffers, backyard conservation, and other programs. There were over 3,000 free native wildflower seed packets made available over the three-day period. For children visiting the booth, there were free conservation education materials including balloons, coloring books, bookmarkers and posters. Demonstrations by participating agencies and partners were given each day

in the Conservation Village. Mike Hansbrough, NRCS Upland Biologist from Jackson, TN, gave demonstrations about quail and wildlife habitat.

Those participating in the booth this year from were: Betty Brown, Administrative Assistant, Shelby County Soil Conservation District; Sam Brown, Earth Team Volunteer; Nancy Dollar, Earth Team Volunteer; Andy Neal, NRCS District Conservationist, Memphis; Troy Taylor, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Memphis; Steve Dobbs, NRCS District Conserva-

tionist, Covington; Brad Little, Soil Conservationist, Covington; Mike Hansbrough, NRCS Biologist, Jackson; and Lavonne Winters, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, Nashville.

A great big "thank you" goes out to all of our Earth Team Volunteers, University of Tennessee Master Gardeners, Shelby SCD employees and NRCS employees who assisted with the booth this year.





Earth Day 2001, Cheatham County, Tennessee -- In celebration of Earth Day, in Cheatham County, TN, 150 tree seedlings were given to students and teachers in the Mid-Cumberland Head Start Program (shown in the photo above). The seedlings were provided by the Cheatham County Soil Conservation District and the Ashland City Parks and Recreation. Each child was given a tree seedling to plant and care for.



Parsons Farm Fest . Decatur County -- In the photo above, children are shown participating in the Parsons Farm Fest which is held annually in Decatur County. NRCS District Conservationist Gary Blackwood says, "The children have a lot of fun as they participate in a variety of activities and demonstrations about our natural resources, the environment, and life on the farm." The Natural Resources Conservation Service partners with several other agencies and organizations to carry out the event.

Earth Day 2001 in Benton County

Kindergarten students at Camden Elementary School participated in Earth Day activities by planting a Bradford Pear tree at the school. James Woodall, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service assisted the students in planting the tree which was given to the students by the Benton County Soil Conservation District. Woodall explained to the students how trees provide many benefits to people, animals, and the earth itself, and that planting a tree is a very appropriate way to celebrate Earth Day.

NRCS Participates in Tennessee Farm Bureau's "County Classroom"

Debbie Brasfield, NRCS Soil Survey Project Leader and Jeff Bowie, District Conservationist, Columbia, TN recently participated in the TFBF's "Country Classroom" designed to teach about the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. A "Soils Tunnel" was utilized to help educate the young people in attendance about the importance of being a good steward of the land and give them a fun way of discovering nature and soils "underground."

Milan No-Till Field Day 2001!



NRCS technical specialists were on hand at the booth at the Milan No-Till Field Day to provide publications and information about soil surveys, conservation buffers, and other NRCS programs and services.



Attending the Milan No-Till Field Day in the photo above are: (L-R) Fred Reeves, Midwest Region Outreach Coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Madison, Wisconsin; James Ford, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nashville, Tennessee; and Debra Kenerson, State Statistician, Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, Nashville, Tennessee.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently participated in the Milan No-Till Field Day which was held on July 26, 2001 at the University of Tennessee Experiment Station in Milan, TN. The event is held annually in an effort to showcase the success of no tillage crop production to area farmers.



Native Warm Season Grass Training Sessions



In March 2001, over 230 people participated in a series of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) training sessions held throughout West Tennessee. These cooperative training sessions were coordinated by Mike Hansbrough, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Upland Biologist, to assist landowners in planning and establishing over 10,000 acres of CRP native warm season grasses for the spring of 2001. Landowners and professional land managers learned about the native warm season grasses benefits, planting techniques, identification, USDA conservation buffers, and CRP program requirements. A host of cooperators were instrumental in assisting the NRCS with the training sessions sessions. Additional information is available at www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov.



Recently planted native warm season grasses (nwsg) are growing quite well in Benton County on areas enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These nwsg are five weeks old and are part of the 10,000 plus acres that landowners planted into CRP in West Tennessee.

NRCS Participates in AgriLeadership 20/20

Report from Darrell Beason, NRCS District Conservationist, Livingston Field Office

I have recently completed a course entitled "AgriLeadership 20/20. Graduation ceremonies for the training was held on March 7, 2001 at Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. James Ford, State Conservationist, attended and addressed the participants and other guests.

This course is the first of its kind offered in Tennessee and only serves the Upper Cumberland Area of the state. It is the only agricultural type leadership course that is in place at this time. Currently, this course serves as a pilot for other areas of Tennessee and possibly other states as well. As a participant of the 2001 graduating class, I was the first NRCS employee to graduate from this course.

AgriLeadership 20/20 was organized to promote a productive and sustainable agricultural industry while keeping harmony with the community and environment through leadership development. The mission statement reads: "To develop the leadership skills of agricultural producers and agribusiness people by empowering them to advance the agricultural industry through the education and understanding of technological advances, policies, laws and regulations and to communicate this philosophy and knowledge to others to improve the quality of rural life."

There are five sessions throughout the course and they target critical issues necessary to succeed as a leader in agriculture. They are as follows: Get Acquainted, Communications, Forest Industry/Alterna-

Tennessee NRCS To Partner with Farm Services Agency and Tennessee Department of Agriculture on Special Watershed Buffer Initiative

Landowners in the Candies Creek and Chatata Creek watershed areas of Bradley County, Tennessee can receive special incentive payments when signing up in the Continuous Conservation Reserve under the Riparian Forestry Buffer program.

To protect water quality and reduce erosion and sediment problems, livestock farmers will be offered special incentives to enroll marginal land in the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) under the Riparian Forestry Buffer program. The Farm Service Agency will provide funding and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will provide additional incentive payments to participants who enroll.

A public meeting is planned in August 2001 to inform landowners about the special incentives through the CRP/Riparian Forestry Buffer program.

tive Agriculture Enterprises, Cutting Edge Technology, and Government/Legislative Trip to State Capitol. Participants are required to complete homework assignments for each session. Each assignment is related to that particular session and relates to key agricultural concerns. Applications as well as additional information can be obtained from any of the AgriLeadership 20/20 organizers or any AgriLeadership Alumni.

Tennessee's top agricultural leaders from partnering agencies organized the course including: Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Tennessee Technological University, USDA-Rural Development, Tennessee Division of Forestry, and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative.

Chris Gass Named TCL "Educator of the Year"

Chris Gass, Office Manager for the Marion County Soil Conservation District, was recently commended by the Tennessee Conservation League (TCL) for her creativity in developing programs to help children learn about conservation. One of her most popular projects is the "Water Tunnel" which is made up of four card tables, plexiglas, paint, Styrofoam-carved fish and turtles. The model teaches children the long range effects of water pollution. By crawling through the tunnel, children can see first-hand how pollution travels downstream and affects all levels of life along the way. She has also developed a coloring book, "Thomas Turtle's Water Adventure." Congratulations, Chris, for your well deserved award!!

Cheatham County Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail--A Community Asset!



Friends of the Trail Volunteer James Lockert (shown in the photo above) constructed and installed a kiosk at the recently completed comfort station on the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail in Ashland City, Tennessee. The kiosk holds interpretive signage describing a constructed wetland for wastewater treatment, solar powered pump for water supply, and Native Species Garden.

Cheatham County residents are pleased with a local partnership project that turned a closed railroad into a walking trail and a community asset. The Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail Project in Ashland City, Tennessee renders many opportunities for local citizens. In addition to providing a relaxing walking trail for local citizens, it also provides many educational opportunities for students and others in the community.

A comfort station utilizing a constructed wetland and solar energy was recently completed on the trail. The wetland for wastewater treatment was the only project of its kind in Middle Tennessee approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in 2000. The solar pump and wetland serve as model demonstrations of alternative wastewater management systems and solar energy and for pumping water to the restroom

facility. The surrounding Native Species Garden, currently being established, will display a variety of plants that are native to the Central Basin/Highland Rim area. This garden will offer backyard conservation alternatives to non-native species.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service working with the Cheatham County Soil Conservation District is implementing the project after the District received a Coor's Pure Water 2000 grant from Coor's Brewing Company. The Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council acquired additional funding for the project from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Urban Nonpoint Source Demonstration and Education Project and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Town of Ashland City, with the use of inmate labor, constructed the building. Donations of goods and services from local companies and

agencies were also obtained. Recently, a group of 170 Mennonites volunteered to weed and mulch the garden.

Partnerships for this project have expanded to include a network of federal, state and local agencies, groups and organizations. Partners include: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cheatham County Soil Conservation District, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, Town of Ashland City, Cheatham County Board of Education, as well as several local companies, volunteers, Boy Scout troops, and individuals.



Approximately 170 Mennonite youth and their leaders (shown in the photo above) volunteered their time to work at the Native Species Garden on the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail recently. The Mennonites were attending a nationwide convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. As part of convention activities, they routinely perform community service projects. Our thanks are extended to each member of the group who weeded and mulched the entire newly planted garden!

Cheatham County Residents Appreciative of Sycamore Creek Emergency Watershed Project (EWP) Project

The Sycamore Creek Emergency Watershed Project (EWP) located in Cheatham County in Middle Tennessee has many area residents praising the work that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and others did on the project. Flooding and resulting damage from debris occurred after a storm event in February this year (see before photo to the right) along the banks of Sycamore Creek in Cheatham County, Tennessee. Sycamore Creek was entirely filled with debris causing flood water to back up and cover a main road and bridge. Also, the water supply for the city of Pleasant View was threatened.

The concerned landowner contacted Carolyn Dillard, NRCS District Conservationist, Ashland City Field Office, and requested assistance to remove debris and repair damage to his property.

Emergency watershed funds were utilized to remove the debris and to stabilize the streambank.



(Before)

Mabel Smith, shown in the photo to the right, lives near Sycamore Creek. She

said, "The water is so clean and clear now. It is beautiful. I would like to express my appreciation to those responsible."

Smith says she spent many days in her childhood with her brothers and sisters on Sycamore Creek. The area holds a lot of memories for her so she is especially glad to see that it has been restored.



(after)

The EWP project was completed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Cheatham County Soil Conservation District, local volunteers and others.

Landowners Pleased With Cane Creek Watershed Special Project

Tennessee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Department of Agriculture (TDA) recently completed the second year of a special water quality and quantity project along Cane Creek in Lauderdale County, Tennessee. Landowners in the Cane Creek Watershed Project area are pleased with the results of the project. Bernice Crain a landowner in the watershed area said, "I can already see a big difference in floodwater levels in the creek during the recent rainstorms along the Nelson Branch area of Cane Creek. The creek did

not get as high as in the past with the same amount of rainfall."

As of this date, 17 large grade stabilization structures that retard 826 acres of floodwater in the upper reaches of Cane Creek have been completed. The structures were designed to control erosion, provide for storm water runoff, reduce nutrients from entering the stream, and enhance wildlife habitat.

The TDA has provided \$120,000 in cost-share assistance to land-

owners in the project area. The total estimated value of the project is approximately \$200,000.





Greg Brann, Grazing Lands Specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, is shown above at the Tennessee Grazing Conference held in Greene County, TN, March 8-10, 2001. The Rural Resources Committee in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service and other agencies and organizations sponsored the event which was centered around how to minimize hay and feed costs while maximizing herd, soil, grass, and water health.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Assists Tennessee Landowners!

According to Greg Brann, Grazing Lands Specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Grazing Lands Demonstration projects and field days have been carried out all across Tennessee as an outreach effort to assist landowners with information about grazing lands. Grazing Lands Demonstration projects have been carried out this year in Chester, Franklin, Wilson, Jefferson, and Greene Counties. The projects were held to demonstrate the benefits of rotational grazing and the installation of support practices such as watering points and fencing.

Mark Your Calendars for Tennessee's Agriculture and Community Expo!

The Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council invites everyone to the Tennessee Agriculture and Community Expo 2001. This event is scheduled for October 23, 2001 in White Pine, TN. This will be an event with noted speakers lecturing each day. The Expo will take place in the Walters State Agriculture Pavilion, a stadium-sized arena, where booths will be set up by businesses, organizations, and agencies. More information about this event will be available in the coming weeks. For additional information, contact Eston Williams, RC&D Coordinator at 865/674-8890.

Tennessee Valley Authority receives RC&D National Award!

The Tennessee Valley Authority in Tennessee was recently selected to receive the National Association of RC&D Council's National Award for Outstanding Sponsor Achievement. This is the highest award given in recognition for partners working with RC&D Councils nationwide. This nomination was made on behalf of RC&D Councils in Tennessee by the Appalachian RC&D Council and was selected after receiving this recognition at State and Regional levels.

The award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils Regional Conference in Lexington, KY on Thursday, October 11 at the Awards Luncheon.

Congratulations TVA in Tennessee!! Thanks for all you do!



Pictured (l to r) is Mary Woodall and Janna Patton helping to judge Benton County Soil Conservation District's 3rd grade poster contest.

Take Our Daughters to Work

Each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages participation in "Take Our Daughters To Work Day." This annual event is an activity of the Ms. Foundation for Women and is a public education program for young girls to help them grow in confidence and ensure that they are visible, valued and heard as they fulfill their dreams. This year, NRCS District Conservationist James Woodall and Cathe Patton, District Secretary, Benton County Soil Conservation District, asked their daughters, Mary and Janna, to join them in the Camden Field Office.

Tennessee NRCS Participates in Native American Festival

The Alliance for Native American Indian Rights of Tennessee and the Tanasi Matera Indigenous Circle joined together to present the Fourth Annual Honor the Ancestor Festival and Traditional Pow Wow, on April 21, 2001 on the Cumberland University Campus in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Christy Luna, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lebanon, Tennessee, participated in the Ancestor Festival and Traditional Pow Wow and set-up an informational booth

on Saturday, April 21, 2001. The booth contained various educational materials dealing with NRCS programs. Materials from NRCS partners were also distributed at the booth including the Wilson County Soil Conservation District, Tennessee Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, and others. There were several hundred people in attendance.

The Alliance for Native American Indian Rights of Tennessee is a non-profit organization formed to fight grave desecration and seek

Tennessee State Conservationist James Ford Provides Tour for STAR Students

Four high school students were selected for this year's Student Trainees in Agricultural Resources (STAR) initiative from Tennessee. Those students were Ivy Hillis and Jake Watson from Crab Orchard near Crossville, Margo Dirkson from Hartsville, and William Godwin from Jackson. The STAR program originated in the NRCS Southeast Regional Office under the leadership of Regional Conservationist, Charles Adams and Regional Outreach Coordinator Lesia Young. STAR students receive exposure to agriculture and natural resource careers and opportunities that hopefully will encourage them to pursue a course of study to enable them to become future employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

State Conservationist James Ford provided the students an opportunity to learn about NRCS, and to get a good overview of careers, issues, and trends in agriculture and natural resources in Tennessee. A field trip was planned that included: a tour of the Tennessee State Capitol, a meeting with Commissioner of Agriculture Dan Wheeler and other state agencies in Nashville, Tennessee.

reburial of Native American remains through legislation and litigation.

People from several Native American organizations in Middle Tennessee and others not affiliated with any organization formed Tanasi Matera Indigenous Circle in August, 1999 to protect and preserve the Native American cultural heritage, sacred places, and ancestors burial sites in Tennessee. The organization's name is derived from the Cherokee word that evolved into "Tennessee" and the Chickasaw word for the term "coming from the ground."

Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D's Youth Realizing the Joys of Reading!



Brandon Thompson, a fifth grade student at Ramer Elementary School, was awarded a complete computer system from the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council's recent Reading Gateway Program. Thirty-three schools participated in this program representing over 16,000 students. Brandon finished first in this contest by reading over 500 books this past school year and making an 80 or above on comprehension test for the books. The purpose of this program was to inspire our Area's youth to learn about the joy of reading and to serve as building block for their future.

Appalachian RC&D Partners to Build Henderson Wetland Pavilion

A pavilion was recently dedicated at a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency-owned marsh area in Washington County, TN. The Henderson Wetland Area was purchased by the state for habitat protection and educational purposes. The pavilion was built via a grant to the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council secured from the Harris Fund for Washington County, a division of the East Tennessee Foundation. The project was a partnership effort to enhance a 25-acre wetland site to increase its usefulness for education purposes about the value and diversity of wetlands in East Tennessee. The RC&D Council is currently seeking funds for Phase II of the project which will be to build a boardwalk through the wetland.



This project is partnership of the Appalachian RC&D Council, Washington County Soil Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Harris Fund for Washington County, East Tennessee Foundation and others.

Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Wins Governor's Award!

The Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council is part of a team to receive the 2001 Governor's Greenways/Trails Award as the result of their work on an Urban Nonpoint Source Pollution project at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville.

Carried out in cooperation with the Water Center at Tennessee Tech University, the NRCS Cookeville Field Office, and the City of Cookeville, the project was funded with a section 319 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The end result was a series of interpretive signs installed along a two-mile trail at Cane Creek Park which discusses urban sources of nonpoint pollution and actions which citizens can take to improve water quality in an urban setting.

Clinch Powell RC&D Holds Annual Conservation Camp

Report Submitted By Lindy Turner, Clinch-Powell RC&D Coordinator

Clinch-Powell RC&D held the 13th annual Conservation Camp in early May where 1,500 sixth grade students traveled to the Clinch River to learn about the environment, conservation, and water quality. This popular and highly successful event continues to be a favorite with students and teachers alike. NRCS is just one of many partners essential to make Conservation Camp a success. A Black Rat Snake (4 ft.) supplied by Mike Zeman was a particular hit at Camp this year. Clinch-Powell RC&D would like to extend a special thank you to Mike for his "above and beyond" effort to make the Wetlands station meaningful, and to Colin Loring for agreeing to fill in for three days when Mike had to drop out at the last minute. Also thanks to Todd Reed for always being dependable and to everyone who helps with Camp. It takes about 62 volunteers to make Camp "run" over the three-day period.

Education events like Conservation Camp are critical to the mission of NRCS, especially those that can have long term impacts on the community. Over the past 13 years more than 18,000 students have been involved in addition to the hundreds of teachers, aides, volunteers, and presenters. We have made a commitment to annually provide this high quality, science based learning opportunity accompanied by study materials and workbooks for all sixth grade classrooms. The result is that schools have incorporated Conservation Camp into their sixth grade science curriculum. Students don't just talk about conservation, they touch and feel it at Camp. Virtually every resident between the ages of 11 and 24 in the Clinch-Powell region have been touched by Conservation Camp.

Five Rivers RC&D Busy With Urban Nonpoint Source Demonstration and Education Project

A grant in the amount of \$75,000 was recently awarded to the Five Rivers RC&D to be utilized in five urban areas as follows:

- Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail Project, Ashland City, TN. (For additional information, see Page 6.)
- Industrial Park Erosion Control Project, Waverly, TN.
- Outdoor Classroom Project, Dickson, TN.
- Springfield City Park Project/ Stream Bank Stabilization
- Erosion Control BMP's, Clarksville, TN.

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Conservation Camp graduates vote, farm and make decisions that affect - and effect - conservation, and the NRCS, every day. As an agency let us celebrate Conservation Camp and events like it as an INVESTMENT in our mission, not as something separate and unrelated to our mission.

Much of the conservation battle is won in the voting booth and I for one am proud to be part of education efforts like Conservation Camp that focus on reaching all citizens. Congratulations and thanks to all NRCS employees who go the extra mile across Tennessee to make education a priority.

Jefferson County Earth Team Makes a Difference!



NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Dennis Danilchuk is shown in the photo above (left) making a presentation to students at the Cocke County Soil Conservation District Conservation Camp.

A conservation camp sponsored by the Cocke County Soil Conservation District was recently held in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Various “stops” along a one-mile nature trail were staffed by volunteers and employees from various local agencies and organizations.

Marty and Dennis Danilchuk, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Earth Team members, and NRCS District Conservationist Wayne Treadway, Jefferson County, Tennessee, were on hand to assist with presentations on soils and litter prevention.

The Danilchuk’s are active Earth Team volunteers in Jefferson County and have contributed their time to various projects and activi-

ties, such as, making EnviroScape presentations and assisting with farm days. They were also instrumental in creating a handout as a companion for the EnviroScape presentations. If you would like information regarding the handout, email Marty at marty-danilchuk@tn.nacdnet.org or contact Marty at 865-397-3310.

Marty Danilchuk, Jefferson County NRCS Earth Team Volunteer, is shown in the photo to the right, at the Cocke County Soil Conservation District Conservation Camp in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Tennessee NRCS District Conservationist Recognized by YMCA as Volunteer of the Year

James Brown, Jr., NRCS District Conservationist, Springfield, Tennessee Field Office, was recently named Volunteer of the Year by the local YMCA for his commitment to helping the YMCA build strong communities. Brown is a former board chair and is an advocate for the YMCA and its community efforts.

Prior to residing in Tennessee, Marty and Dennis have devoted many hours to volunteering including working with a local Sierra Club on trail descriptions for the Cherokee National Forest and volunteering on Tybee Island.

Employee Recognition

During second and third quarters of Fiscal Year 2001 the following Natural Resources Conservation Service employees received special recognition in the performance of their duties. We extend a hearty congratulations to everyone!

Name

Duty Station

Employees Receiving Cash Awards

Beasley, L. Michelle	Gallatin Field Office
Chandler Carol C.	Gallatin Field Office
Creasy, James L.	Sparta Field Office
Hansbrough, Michael P.	Jackson Division Office
Hasty, Larry D.	Shelbyville Field Office
Lansford, Jimmie W.	Hull-York RC&D Office
McElroy, Michael E.	Greeneville Field Office
Merinar, David R.	Mountain City Field Office
Neal, Alan W.	Clinton Field Office
Taylor, Gregory M.	Centerville Field Office
Watkins, Denise M.	Chattanooga Technical Service Center

Employees Receiving Time-Off Awards

Adkins, Jenny E.	State Office
Blick, Larry W.	State Office
Brasfield, Debra K.	Columbia Field Office
Butler, Jerry	Jackson Field Office
Counts, Jane H.	State Office
Danielson, Beautrice M.	State Office
Daugherty, Mary K.	Chattanooga Field Office
Eastham, Barbara J.	Murfreesboro Division Office
Floyd, E. Faye	Jackson Division Office
Grissom, Louis P.	McMinnville Field Office
Hillsman, Terron L.	Madisonville Field Office
Holman, Traci A.	State Office
Holyfield, Gerald R.	Cookeville
Hopkins, Susan M.	State Office
Hoskins, Pamela F.	Smithville Field Office
Jackson, Hugh C.	Gallatin Field Office
Johnson, Naomi Hamilton	State Office
Lansford, Jimmie W.	Hull-York RC&D Office
Lutz, Grace C.	State Office
Newton, Darwin L.	State Office
Schroth, Paula M.	Murfreesboro Division Office
Williams, Eston	Smoky Mountain RC&D Office
Winters, Lavonne E.	State Office
Woodall, James D.	Camden Field Office

Spotlight on NRCS Student Trainee . .



Demetria Payne, Natural Resources Conservation Service student trainee (shown above) is currently training with the Ashland City Field Office in Cheatham County.

Student Trainee, Demetria Payne, has been busy this summer assisting the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Ashland City Field Office. Demetria is originally from Madison, WI, but has been living in Nashville, TN for the past seven years. She is a senior at Tennessee State University majoring in plant science, and is expected to graduate in May 2002. After graduation, Demetria is planning to pursue a master's degree in Business Administration. Demetria's prior experience with NRCS includes working two summers in Oregon. The first summer she worked in the Tangent field office near Corvallis in western Oregon, and the second summer she worked in the Moro field office, located on the historic Oregon Trail in Eastern Oregon. She is currently training with the Ashland City NRCS Field Office in Cheatham County, TN. During the course of the summer, she has worked with several surrounding counties and participated in many projects, including the Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail, Native Garden establishment, Camp Dogwood (Self-sustaining environmental camp), Ashland City's Summerfest, TDA, EQIP, and WHIP programs.

Give A Hoot For Kids -- A Day on the Farm



Oscar Scott is shown in the photo to the left with children at Give A Hoot for Kids--A Day on the Farm held in May on the Scott Farm in Ooltewah near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Oscar and Barbara Scott, NRCS Earth Team Volunteers, annually invite inner city and urban children to their farm in Ooltewah, TN. "The children learn about the environment, agriculture, conservation of natural resources, and a "real working farm," says Oscar.

The Southeast Tennessee RC&D Council, Hamilton County Soil Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, Tennessee Department of Agriculture and other agencies and organizations partner with the Scotts to carry out the event with support from a number of local businesses and volunteers.

Oscar and Barbara Scott were recently recognized by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for their efforts in advancing environmental and conservation stewardship.

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